During an information meeting last fall, the director of the Science and Technology Policy Internship Program, Edmund Russell, revealed some exciting news: during the summer of 2007, the program would offer its first international placement at the National Science Foundation (NSF) Europe Office in Paris.

Since the program began in 2000, more than 70 undergraduate students from the School of Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS) have interned in Washington, DC with Congressional offices, federal agencies and non-governmental organizations. In 2006, the program expanded to state government with a placement in Richmond working for Virginia’s secretary of technology. The latest expansion overseas furthers the program’s goal to train leaders in science and technology policy by providing an opportunity to appreciate the global context of engineering.

Continued on page 2
The Insider  | May 2008

GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR

One of the great pleasures of this program is working with so many outstanding students. Pride in performance is the true reward for excellence, but it is also gratifying to see alumni recognized by others. Let me tell you about some of the honors received in the past year.

- Jason Manto (PIP Intern ’04) is in China conducting rural health care research through a Fulbright Fellowship.
- Marin Odioso (PIP Intern ’06) carried out research under a Harrison Award and was a finalist for a Marshall Scholarship.
- Vinu Ilakkuvan (PIP Intern ’07) received a Harrison Award and was nominated by U.Va. for a Truman Scholarship.

• Hy Martin (PIP Intern ’07) was a finalist for a Luce Scholarship.
• James Villarrubia (PIP Intern ’07) received an Eben Tisdale Fellowship.
• At last spring’s graduation, Alison Tramba (PIP Intern ’05) received the Raven Society Award and the SEAS Outstanding Student Award.
• Five alumni are living on the Lawn — Ben Cooper (PIP Intern ’06), Christine Devlin (PIP Intern ’07), Emily Hesaltine (PIP Intern ’06), Marin Odioso (PIP Intern ’06) and James Villarrubia (PIP Intern ’07).

In many cases, the internship program helped applications for awards by enabling alumni to demonstrate a commitment to public service, show leadership and carry out original research.

Please let us know of your awards, from any organization, so we can share the news in a future newsletter.

Edmund Russell
russell@virginia.edu

NEWS OF THE PROGRAM Cont’d

Christine Devlin, a rising fourth year in the Department of Electrical Engineering, was selected to be the first intern ever, from anywhere, to intern in the NSF’s Europe Office. During her nine weeks in Paris, she researched university reform in France and worked with the science counselor at the U.S. Embassy.

Devlin reports that the highlight of her summer was meeting four U.S. Supreme Court Justices. When asked to describe her experience, she simply states, “I had the best internship in the world.”

Christine Devlin with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

LETTER FROM JIM TURNER

The program continues to grow stronger. Tobie Weiner, MIT’s Policy Internship Program Director, has told me that for her it is heart-breaking each year choosing the last one or two students and having to turn down truly remarkable classmates. I think all of us felt that way about this year’s selection process. I expect great things from each and every member of our class and regret not being able to extend invitations to some really gifted students. I really hope that our endowment will grow to the point that we can have 15 students, like MIT.

It is exciting to me just how many of our alumni are located in the Washington area. We have taken good first steps in involving alumni in the enrichment of our class’ experiences and I want to make it a top priority this summer to make better use of you, our talented veterans. Please think about what you would have liked to be able to do and what you feel able to bring to the program.

We are to the point where many of “Jim’s contacts” are full-fledged friends of the program and anxious to help, whether or not I am involved. This would not have happened without you being such stars in your placements and such good ambassadors for SEAS.

Finally, this intern class will be in Washington, DC during an election year, which brings unique opportunities. Next year will bring different challenges when some of our special friends leave office after eight years and others take their place in a new administration.

Times of transition are times of risk, but more importantly times of opportunity. We need everybody’s help so we will be able to look back at 2008 and 2009 as the years when the program moved from excellence to something really special.

Jim Turner
jim.turner@mail.house.gov
Greetings from Washington, DC!

The Alumni Network is now approaching its fourth year of existence and we are continuing to build a network of diverse young professionals. With the latest class of 2007, we are now 78 members strong and are eagerly anticipating the arrival of the new class of 2008.

As an Alumni Network we are striving to be a group of engineers that are using our technical skills to solve the complex problems of our quickly changing world. And though we are no longer sharing our internship experiences together, we have the unique opportunity to do what we once did in summers through this alumni community.

I hope that as we build momentum, we can find new ways to facilitate alumni interaction and foster a sense of community that follows with us in our careers and lives.

Best wishes,
Natalie Giannelli
nataliegiannelli@yahoo.com

“After this summer, a whole other world of opportunity opened up to me.”

Before they knew it, the internship came to a close. The last week was a whirlwind of experiences, which culminated with the final research symposium and dinner at the Cosmos Club with mentors and friends. A slideshow of the summer’s pictures provided many reminders of what had been a productive, enjoyable and eye-opening ten weeks. As Hy Martin put it, “After this summer, a whole other world of opportunity opened up to me.”

Highlights of 2007

Sleep is for August. The refrain of the summer may be a bit unexpected — only the most incredible circumstances would prompt a group of sleep-deprived college students to give up sleep over the summer. But the term “incredible” hardly does justice to the experiences of the eleven 2007 interns who spent ten weeks last summer in Washington, DC, Richmond or Paris.

An array of different workplaces — ranging from Senator Clinton’s office to a small non-governmental organization to the National Science Foundation (NSF) office in Paris — allowed the interns to learn from each other just by sharing their drastically different work experiences.

The interns shared their research at the program’s final research symposium held in the House Science Committee Hearing Room, presenting on a wide variety of topics, including “Ethical Models for Battlefield Triage” and “eForms Made Easy: A Strategy for Interoperability in Virginia.”

Kimberly Naden worked on a video game called “Immune Attack” at the Federation of American Scientists (FAS). She said FAS team’s conference calls taught her “the importance of collaboration and diversity — collaborating with people of different expertise and interests to brainstorm ideas, make progress and produce results effectively and efficiently.”

Interns in Washington, DC also gained a lot of knowledge through the Speaker Series. They had the opportunity to hear firsthand from leaders in science and technology policy, such as President Bush’s Science Advisor and the Director of NSF.

After work and speaker events, their days did not end. A 9-5 job meant just that — after 5 p.m., the day was theirs, and they took full advantage of that, exploring their respective cities. In Washington, DC, along with the MIT students, the U.Va. interns went to the Folklife Festival, walked through the zoo, watched the fireworks go off on the 4th of July and more.

Before they knew it, the internship came to a close. The last week was a whirlwind of experiences, which culminated with the final research symposium and dinner at the Cosmos Club with mentors and friends. A slideshow of the summer’s pictures provided many reminders of what had been a productive, enjoyable and eye-opening ten weeks. As Hy Martin put it, “After this summer, a whole other world of opportunity opened up to me.”

Look for an invitation to the 4th Annual Alumni Dinner in Washington, DC this June!
Alumni Updates

Class of 2000

Courtney Salthouse Wright, the first intern of the program, is working for Booz Allen Hamilton as a systems analyst in Houston, Texas. She married Adam Wright and in 2006 gave birth to twins, Kailey and Peyton.

Stacey Benzel Flood is a first year student at U.Va.’s Darden School of Business. She will intern this summer for Chatham Financial in Kennett Square, PA. She married Ben Flood (Engr ’02) this past December.

After graduating from U.Va., Jessica Hess attended Carnegie Mellon University where she earned her M.S. in Electrical Engineering concentrating in wireless communication. She worked for a start-up in-building wireless company before beginning her current job as a senior consultant with Booz Allen Hamilton in Houston, Texas. She will soon return to Pittsburgh to pursue a master’s in library and information science at the University of Pittsburgh.

John Jesus will graduate in the spring from U.Va.’s School of Medicine and will start his residency in emergency medicine this summer.

Since graduating from medical school in San Francisco, Glen Michael has moved back to Charlottesville to complete his training in emergency medicine. He has recently published research on socio-economic disparities in prehospital care and is collaborating with fellow 2001 intern John Jesus on a publication concerning the ethics of conducting research in disaster-stricken populations.

Ginger Moored earned a dual master’s degree in public affairs and urban & regional planning from Princeton University. She is currently a Capital City Fellow with the Government of the District of Columbia.

In 2004, Emmanuel Smadja received an M.S. in systems engineering with a focus on nanotechnology ethics from U.Va. He worked for Celanese, a multinational chemicals company, in Texas before starting his current job as a senior associate with Capital One Healthcare Financing in Boston. He recently joined the StartingBloc fellowship, a network for individuals interested in social innovation.

After spending a year studying in Ireland as a Mitchell Scholar, Markus Weisner has returned to the Charlottesville area. He is employed as a Charlottesville firefighter and works part-time as an emergency services analyst for a public safety consulting firm in Washington, DC.

Leonard Woody is a project engineering lead at Ciber, Inc. in Northern Virginia. He is expecting his first child with his wife, Jeanette, this July.

Class of 2001

Brian Fox is a simulation and analysis engineer for The Boeing Company in Seal Beach, CA, working in integrated defense systems and satellite systems modeling.

Natalie Giannelli is currently working at the World Bank as a junior professional associate in the Latin America and Caribbean region with the water and urban development group. She has plans to return to graduate school in the fall to pursue her interests in clean water for the developing world with a master’s degree in environmental engineering.

Ed Hallen is a principal at Applied Predictive Technologies, a strategic consulting firm in Washington, DC.


Tisan Ahmad is working for CGI Federal in Fairfax, VA as a consultant on business process re-engineering projects with several government clients.

Alexander Hang is a senior associate with KPMG’s business performance services group in Washington, DC.

Lisa Hovey Motley earned her J.D. at the U.Va. School of Law in May 2007 and was admitted to the Virginia State Bar. She is a staff attorney at the U.S. Government Accountability Office, working on the health care team in the Office of the General Counsel. She was married this past August to Aaron Motley (Col ’07).

Class of 2002

Ryan Ewalt will graduate from the Master of Public Administration Program at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Government this May. He is currently performing a benchmarking project to improve the development review process for nine cities in North Carolina and is studying the price of government for all 100 North Carolina counties.
Tiffany Nichols is in her final year at U.Va. School of Law. After graduation, she will practice intellectual property law at a firm in Washington, DC.

Soham Sen is the director of operations at Kabir, an Indian communications organization dedicated to raising awareness for India’s Right to Information Act and increasing participation in government. He plans to return to the U.S. for graduate school in public policy this fall.

Amanda Singleton is a junior engineer with Eastern Research Group in Chapel Hill, NC.

Ahson Wardak is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Systems and Information Engineering at U.Va. He is researching environmental and public health regulation of active nanostructures, work that builds on his internship experience with the program.

Tom Woods is living in Oakton, VA and works for the Department of Defense as an analyst.

Melissa Yingling is in her third year of medical school at the University of Kentucky. She is pursuing a career in obstetrics and gynecology and was recently inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha National Medical Honor Society. She is engaged to marry Roger Counihan (Engr ’05).

Kaveh Ardalan is in his fourth year of medical school at the U.Va. School of Medicine.

Alex Genetos is in his first year as an M.B.A. candidate at the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University. He will work in Detroit this summer with General Motors’ global product planning group.

Erwin Gianchandani is in his fourth year of graduate school in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at U.Va. He received an M.S. degree in May 2007 and is currently working towards a Ph.D.

Brigitte Hoyer is a program specialist with the Office of Transition Initiatives at the US Agency for International Development.

Peter Milligan is working towards a J.D. from Cornell Law School and an M.B.A. from the Johnson Graduate School of Management. He has accepted a summer associate position with Ropes & Gray LLP in New York City.

After teaching in Texas with Teach For America, Brock Riggs is currently pursuing an M.S. in materials science and engineering at U.Va. He is engaged to marry fellow U.Va. graduate Emily Kim (Col ’05).

Julianne Carroll is living in Northern Virginia and working as a staff consultant for Capgemini.

Maggie Draughon is in the Technology Rotational Program with JPMorgan Chase in Wilmington, DE.

Dhruv Kapadia is teaching high school math in Brooklyn, NY through Teach For America.

The Policy Internship Program has seen tremendous growth since it began in 2000 with one intern, Courtney Salthouse Wright. Wright interned with Representative Virgil Goode on Capitol Hill. She remembers making signs to cheer on Representative Goode in the Roll Call softball game, a showdown between Republican and Democratic members of the House and Senate.

After graduating from U.Va. in 2000 with a degree in mechanical engineering, Wright spent five years in Northern Virginia working for two different defense contractors. Her tasks focused on process modeling and simulations, which led her to pursue a master’s degree in operations research through Georgia Tech’s distance learning program.

Around this time, Wright met her husband while taking private pilot lessons. They moved to Houston in 2005 where she accepted a position as a systems engineer for Booz Allen Hamilton, working on projects for the International Space Station and NASA’s commercial transport contracts. In 2006, Mr. and Mrs. Wright welcomed twins into their family.

Though Wright does not believe the policy internship program changed her career path, she says that it gave her a greater appreciation of the world of politics. When asked about working on Capitol Hill, she says, “I really just enjoyed the atmosphere — going to work every day in such an important place.”
Ginger Moored has returned to Washington, DC as a participant in the Capital City Fellows Program. The program gives Fellows the opportunity to complete four six-month rotations in different city agencies. Moored’s first assignment was with the District Department of Transportation, where she served as the policy analyst for the recent increase in Metro fares. She is currently creating a strategy to build the capacity of green businesses in the District at the Department of Small and Local Business Development.

After graduating from SEAS in 2002 with a B.S. in aerospace engineering, Moored taught physics at a public high school in Washington, DC for two years through Teach For America. She then attended the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University where she earned a master’s of public affairs.

Her first job after graduate school was for media arts and cultural center in the Appalachian region of Kentucky. She managed documentary filmmakers and a youth media production program. She also started a world music and current events radio show that became popular among local prisoners of Latin American and Caribbean origin.

As a policy intern during the summer of 2001, Moored worked at the State Department’s Space and Advanced Technology Office where she was responsible for investigating the space tourism industry. The highlight of her summer was attending a space tourism conference on Capitol Hill, which announced future plans for the industry, ranging from personal spaceships to space hotels.

When asked about her summer experience, Moored replied that the program “got me thinking about how engineers can use their quantitative skills to work on a variety of issues, some of which are outside of the traditional engineering fields.” She advises future interns to seek out internships that explore new interests, because it is possible to discover an unexpected field where employees with an engineering background can thrive.
Alumni Spotlight

The chance to attend the Presidential Early-Career Awards for Scientists & Engineers (PECASE) ceremony featuring an address from President Bush is just one of the “surreal experiences” that 2002 intern Ryan Murphy remembers from his summer.

Murphy interned for the White House in the Office of Science and Technology Policy, where he researched neutrino-studying facilities. Murphy had never heard of a neutrino, a particle produced by stars with no charge and almost no mass, before starting the project, but he quickly became an expert and developed a report recommending legislation for U.S. facilities.

After graduating from U.Va. in 2004 with a B.S. in systems engineering, Murphy worked for McKinsey & Company in Atlanta as a business analyst. His assignments ranged from consumer goods to agribusiness, and he traveled as far as Switzerland and Singapore.

At the end of the two-year business analyst program, Murphy enrolled at Harvard Business School. He will graduate this June and has plans to return to McKinsey as an associate. This summer he will marry fellow U.Va. graduate Michelle Coleman (Col ‘04, Curry ’04).

While Murphy’s near term career plans do not directly involve technology policy, he is still very passionate about issues in the field. Murphy believes that “as the Internet becomes increasingly important to the world economy, so will the role of technology in policy formation.”

Alumni Updates Cont’d

Class of 2007

Andrew Bradley will graduate in May with a B.S. in biomedical engineering. He plans to attend medical school at the University of Michigan in the fall.

Suzanne Collier, a third year in computer science, received the U.Va. Lockheed Martin Distinguished Student Award. She will intern this summer at GE Fanuc, working on software development.

Christine Devlin will receive a B.S. in electrical engineering this May. She will start as an analyst with Oliver Wyman in Dubai, United Arab Emirates in September.

In June, Vinu Ilakkuvan, a third year biomedical engineering and economics double major, will volunteer with Alternative Spring Break at the Uluru Children’s Home in India. She will continue her stay in India until August to conduct research on dietary compliance of diabetic patients through a U.Va. Harrison Undergraduate Research Award.

Claudia Leahy will graduate in May with a degree in civil and environmental engineering. After graduation, she will work for URS Corporation in Herndon, VA as an environmental engineer.

Kim Naden is a third year in biomedical engineering. She will spend the summer in Charlottesville taking organic chemistry lab, doing research and volunteering at the hospital.

After graduating with a B.S. in computer science this May, Kevin Richards will work with Lead America’s Law Program over the summer before attending law school in the fall.

Emily Morgan Rush, a third year biomedical engineering major, will study organic chemistry and volunteer for the Rural Health Outreach Program with the Blue Ridge Medical Center this summer.

Recruitment 2008

Following the most competitive selection process yet, with a record number of 39 applicants for 11 positions, the intern class of 2008 was announced this past November. The recruitment process began even earlier, with information sessions in mid-October. Students interested in the internship had a chance to hear what the opportunity entailed from the director and program alumni.

Of the 39 applications received, 18 were selected for interviews and 11 were chosen for the intern class of 2008.

This year’s class, listed below, is composed of six third-year students and five second-year students. It is one of the most academically diverse, spanning seven majors within U.Va.’s engineering school.

The Class of 2008 Interns
Dustin Cable, Systems Engineering & American Government
Hallet William Connor, Chemical Engineering
Tallie Faircloth, Civil Engineering & minor in French Language and Literature
Todd Gerarden, Mechanical Engineering
Brendan Hart, Chemical Engineering
Nicholas Stefan Olson, Computer Engineering and French
Margaret Rush, Biomedical Engineering
Ritwik Sahu, Systems Engineering and Economics
Benjamin Sargent, Aerospace Engineering
Christina Stamper, Chemical Engineering
Jennifer Wilson, Biomedical Engineering
SUPPORTING THE PROGRAM

It costs our program about $10,000 to support each intern. We have been able to do so primarily because of the generosity of Dean Aylor and the SEAS alumni and friends who give annually to the University of Virginia Engineering Foundation. We have also received some private donations (never exceeding 6 percent of the annual expenses).

To continue and expand the program, we need to move it from school to private support. The proof of concept is clear and the impact for SEAS and our alumni is great. Now is the time to endow the program to ensure future success.

Donors can help us in two ways.

1) A donation to the Annual Fund for Engineering. You can do this through the University of Virginia Engineering Foundation Website, www.seas.virginia.edu/uvef, and designate the program as the beneficiary. This is the best route for small donations, and every donation makes a difference!

2) Supporting the program through an endowment gift. While the annual fund needs to be replenished each year, an endowment is a perpetual gift because the money is invested and the program relies on the interest for operating expenses.

We need about $2.5 million to endow the program at present size, and $5 million endowment to grow to our target of 20 interns per year. We have about $150,000 in endowment so far for the Miksad Endowment, named in honor of Dean Richard Miksad’s originating the U.Va. program.

Not all of the endowment needs to come from one donation. Some donors have expressed interest in endowing one intern, which would cost $200,000 (assuming a 5 percent payout on the endowment). We would name the slot after the donor or someone the donor designates. One donor has been working to line up others who could contribute to a combined pot. Other options are possible.

If you or your friends are interested in a gift, please contact Truin Huntley (tls4m@virginia.edu).